



U.S. Department of Justice

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United States Attorney
Western District of Washington

News Release

3600 Seafirst Fifth Avenue Plaza
800 Fifth Avenue
Seattle, Washington, 98104
206-442-7970

For Release:

September 20, 1988

Gene S. Anderson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Washington, announced today in Seattle that charges have been filed against Riedel International, Inc. ("Riedel"), a Portland-based company, and two of its officers, for criminal violations of Federal environmental laws. The ten-count Information, filed today in United States District Court in Seattle, alleges that a division of Riedel, the Pioneer Construction Materials Company ("Pioneer"), operated ready-mix concrete plants adjacent to Lake Union and the Duwamish River in Seattle. According to the Information, wastewaters from washing concrete trucks, as well as other concrete manufacturing wastewaters, were illegally discharged into the waters of Lake Union and the Duwamish at the two Riedel plants, in violation of the Federal Clean Water Act.

The Information made public today also charges two officials of the Pioneer Division of Riedel, James A. Repman, then President of Pioneer, and Ronald E. Summers, then Operations Manager.

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Each official is alleged to have had responsibility for operations at the two concrete plants.

Riedel is charged with illegal discharges on six days, in six counts of the Information. James Repman and Ronald Summers are each charged with illegal discharge on four separate days, as set forth in two counts of the Information.

The maximum penalty provided by law for each violation of the Clean Water Act is a fine of \$100,000, and for the individuals charged, imprisonment for up to one year. United States Attorney Anderson noted today that subsequent to the offenses involved in the charges filed today, the United States Congress amended the Water Act to provide significantly higher penalties, with imprisonment for up to three years for a first offense, and up to six years for second convictions. The new penalties are currently effective for new offenses under the Water Act.

The charges filed today under the Clean Water Act are the second prosecution filed in Western Washington in recent months against a concrete manufacturer related to illegal discharges of concrete wastewaters. Similar charges were recently resolved against the George Scofield Company in Tacoma. In August, a United States Magistrate in Tacoma fined the Scofield Company \$40,000, following entry of guilty pleas by that corporation. An official of Scofield was recently sentenced by the Magistrate (on September 2, 1988), and fined \$10,000.

These cases are the result of cooperative efforts by agents of the United States Environmental Agency, David V. Marshall of the United States Attorney's Office, and Helen J. Brunner of the United States Department of Justice Environmental Crimes Section.